New-Albany Feb. 1845

Dear brethren,

Your letter has been received and presented to this Soc. We feel grateful for the interest which you expres in our welfare, while we could expect nothing les from those who are engaged in the same great pursuit with ourselves. Indeed it is to be deplored that there is so little disposition among Christians to confide in each other, to communicate freely their cares & difficulties and to take counsel together concerning the great interest of Christs kingdom. Let us then resolve while in the beginning of our career, that we will cherish that christian love, which will bind us together as a band of brethren and make us forgetfull of self, while we are wholly devoted to promoting the cause of Christ.

With your remarks concerning Catholicism we fully concur. The diffusion of light is the surest safeguard against the spread of error. It is undoubtedly true that the church of Rome is upheld by ignorance. Let the beams of the Sun of righteousness be shed abroad through our land, and this ignorance will disappear and with it the foundation of this error which is so ominous to the future welfare of our country. A great evil with us in the West is, that Protestants will support Catholic institutions of learning. This is owing to the fact that the public generally are ignorant of the true nature and object of

these institutions. However we can console ourselves with the reflection that whatsoever God does is for the best, and it may be that he is permitting the emissaries of Rome to succeed so far for the purpose of uniting christians more closely.

As to our present condition in the seminary there is little variation in our number, from last session. We have about 25 in regular attendance. The state of feeling among us on the subject of religion is I think better that at any time during the past session, though far from what it ought to be. It is a false notion which we are too apt to entertain, that it is peculiarly difficult and indeed hardly to be expected, that the student would keep alive a spirit of earnest and heartfelt devotion, during the time that he is in the seminary. This is conceived to be inconsistent with close application to study. But if we have not the love of Christ within us while preparing for his holy ministry, it is very doubtful whether we will have it when we enter upon that ministry.

At the last meeting of our Society it was resolved that every member should write to some minister of his acquaintance in the West, requesting information concerning the state of religion in his field of labour. We hope if this plan is carried out to gain much information

which we could not obtain from newspapers and periodicals. and we may perhaps be enabled to communicate to you information which may prove interesting, at least to such of you as may think of coming to the West. and these we hope are not a few. There are numerous fields of usefulness. open to those who are willing to practice self denial.

You ask what influence the meeting of the assembly in Louisville has exerted upon the cause of Presbyterianism in the West. To this important question we can give no definite answer. We know of no outward manifestations which can with certainty be traced to that meeting as their cause. This good effect did however result, the representation from the West was much more numerous than it had ever before been, so that many returned to their homes in the woods with enlarged views, with their zeal renewed, feeling that though distant, they were yet members of a great body, whose object was nothing less than the conversion of the world. There are many other effects which reflection and reason would convince us must have followed. But these you are as capable of deducing as we are. we have nothing upon the subject to communicate in the way of facts. We would be pleased to hear from you again. Yours affectionately

Cor. Sec. Levi Hughes

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25

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